Docket No. H4299 PCT/US PCT/EP00/08774

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the above amendments prior to examination of this application.

Status of Claims

Claims 18 to 38 will be pending after entry of the present amendment. Claims 1 to 17 are being canceled without prejudice.

Amendment

The specification is being amended to insert section headers and an abstract of the disclosure in accordance with 37 CFR §1.77 to better conform with US patent practice. The specification is also being amended to insert a cross-reference to related applications in accordance 37 CFR §1.78 and to claim priority to those applications listed therein. Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification entitled "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

New Claims 18 to 38 replace original Claims 1 to 17, and are being presented to better conform with US patent practice. These new claims are supported by the specification for example as shown in the Table below (cites to the specification are for the English translation):

Claim	Support in Specification
18	page 2, line 18 to page 3, line 4
19, 20, 23, 25, 26, 34	page 3, lines 25 to 27
21	page 3, lines 23 to 24
22	page 3, lines 16 to 17
24, 27	page 4, lines 5 to 8
28, 29	page 12 to 15
30	page 5, lines 11 to 12, page 6, lines 11 to 17
32, 33	page 8, lines 14 to 19
35	page 9, lines 24 to 27
36	page 19, lines 16 to 18
37, 38	page 19, lines 19 to 21

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No new matter is added by the new claims or amendments to the specification.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request early and favorable notification of allowance of all pending claims. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in the required fee or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 01-1250 in connection with this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

On page 22, line 1, the heading "CLAIMS" has been amended as shown below: [CLAIMS] What is claimed is: